

CLAIMS:

1. A process for producing indene, which comprises adding a glycol or a derivative thereof to an indene-containing coal tar distillate, and then conducting azeotropic distillation to obtain an indene fraction while eliminating benzonitrile from said indene-containing coal tar distillate.
- 5 2. A process according to claim 1, wherein said glycol or said derivative is at least one glycol or derivative selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, propanediol, butanediol and derivatives thereof.
- 10 3. A process for producing indene, which comprises adding a glycol or a derivative thereof to an indene-containing coal tar distillate, and then conducting extractive distillation to obtain an indene fraction while eliminating benzonitrile from said indene-containing coal tar distillate.
- 15 4. A process according to claim 3, wherein said glycol or said derivative is at least one glycol or derivative selected from the group consisting of triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol and derivatives thereof.
- 20 5. A process for producing indene, which comprises adding to an indene-containing coal tar distillate an extractant selected from the group consisting of dialkyl carbonates, alkylene carbonates and diaryl carbonates, and then conducting extractive distillation to obtain an indene fraction while eliminating benzonitrile from said indene-containing
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coal tar distillate.

6. A process according to claim 5, wherein said extractant is at least one extractant selected from the group consisting of dimethyl carbonate, ethylene carbonate and

5 propylene carbonate.